

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06064 050912Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

DHA-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 /079 W
----- 014709

P R 050852Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8715

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6064

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK MEETS PRESS AT CHINHAIE

BEGIN SUMMARY. ON AUGUST 5, KOREAN NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED PRESIDENT PAK'S INTERVIEW WITH PRESS AT RESORT CITY OF CHINHAIE WHERE HE IS VACATIONING. PAK SAID THAT NO SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS COULD BE EXPECTED ON AUGUST 15 ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION DAY (DESPITE MANY RUMORS IN TOWN TO CONTRARY). HE FORESAW NO NEED TO REVISE KOREAN ELECTION LAWS IN ADVANCE OF UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RACES IN 1978 AND 1979. HE ALSO PREDICTED DEFENSE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, PRESIDENT PAK MET WITH PRESS ON AUGUST 5 AT SOUTHERN RESORT CITY OF CHINHAIE BUT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SUGGEST INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE AS EARLY AS AUGUST 2 WITH EMBARGO UNTIL AUGUST 5. IN ANY CASE, MOST OBSERVERS NOTE THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO REAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR TIMING OF PRESS CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME OTHER THAN POSSIBLE DESIRE ON PRESIDENT'S PART TO QUELL RUMORS OF SOME
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06064 050912Z

SIGNIFICANT PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO HAVE BEEN REVEALED

ON NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY, AUGUST 15 AND MANY DEMANDS HE HAD HAD TO SEE PRESS. PAK'S LAST CONFERENCE WITH DOMESTIC PRESS WAS IN JANUARY, 1976.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT ON AUGUST 15, ALSO ANNIVERSARY OF MRS. PAK'S ASSASSINATION AND JUST PRIOR TO AMERICAN REPUBLIC PARTY CONVENTION, PRESIDENT PAK MIGHT REVOKE EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER 9 OR RELEASE OR PARDON CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED "POLITICAL" PRISONERS AS GESTURE TO AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. PRESS QUESTION ONLY REFERRED TO RUMORS OF "IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT" AND WHILE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD HEARD SUCH REPORTS, HE ADDED HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE BY "SPECIAL STATEMENT."

4. WHEN PAK WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REVISION OF GENERAL ELECTION LAWS "WITH VIEW TO FURTHER CEMENTING YUSHIN SYSTEM", HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR REVISION. (PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS SLATED FOR 1978 AND THAT FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1979). HE NOTED THAT SAEMAUL MOVEMENT COULD NOT PROGRESS IN ATMOSPHERE OF DEMOGOGUERY AND "IRRESPONSIBLE CAMPAGIN PLEDGES" SUCH AS HAPPENED IN PAST ELECTIONS.

4. PRESIDENT AGAIN ASSURED PUBLIC THAT UPCOMING SESSION OF 31ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SUBSEQUENT VOTING SHOWDOWN ON KOREA WOULD HAVE LITTLE REAL EFFECT ON EVENTUAL KOREAN SOLUTION. SECRETARY'S OVERTURE IN SEATTLE SPEECH CALLING FOR CONVENTION OF FOUR POWER CONFERENCE WAS NOT NEW THOUGH IT MADE MORE CONCRETE RECOMMENDATION AS TO SITE. HE SAID US DOES NOT SEEM TO EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

5. OFFICIAL KOREA HERALD HEADLINED SHORT QUOTATION BY PRESIDENT THAT KEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1978 AS THEY ARE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS.

6. HE CONFIRMED THAT "WRITTEN WARNINGS" WERE SENT OUT TO SEVERAL DRP LAWMAKERS IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE AND GAVE HOPE THAT NDP COULD RESUME ITS NORMAL FUNCTIONS ONCE AGAIN AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT PERIOD AT HOME AND ABROAD.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06064 050912Z

7. OTHER POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT WERE: ECONOMY IN GOOD SHAPE WITH GOOD PROSPECTS, NORTH KOREAN THREAT STILL EXISTS, BUT NORTH HAS NO CHANCE TO WIN A WAR; NORTH EVENTUALLY WILL REALIZE IT CAN NOT TAKE SOUTH BY FORCE AND WILL COME TO NEGOTIATING TABLE; PLAN TO DISPERSE EXCESS SEOUL POPULATION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1977; AND OIL PROSPECTING RESULTS SO FAR UNSATISFACTORY.

8. TEXT BEING POUCHED.
STERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION LAW, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL06064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-1127
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760883/aaaacvhe.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT PAK MEETS PRESS AT CHINHAIE BEGIN SUMMARY. ON AUGUST 5, KOREAN NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED PRESIDENT PAK'S INTERVIEW WITH PRESS AT RESORT CIT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, (PAK CHONG-HUI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006